

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3110
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 8100

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,PFOR,ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIA AND WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE; ISLAMIC
SUMMIT

REF : STATE 137481

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANT ALI MURTOPO
CONFIRMED JUNE 29 THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD TWO YEARS AGO
GIVEN APPROVAL TO HOLDING OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)
CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA IN 1975. SINCE THAT
TIME, ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC PRESSURES REMAIN WITHIN BOUNDS,
MORE EXTREME MOSLEM COUNTRIES ARE PRESSURING GOI EITHER
TO WITHDRAW INVITATION OR TO BALANCE IT BY HOSTING
MOSLEM SUMMIT PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING. GIVEN THIS
PRESSURE, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INDONESIAN STAND
ON MOSLEM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, GOI IS
IN SOMEWHAT OF A QUANDARY AS TO WHAT TO DO, AND IS
OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR SOME SOLUTION AT WCC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING IN BERLIN IN LATE JULY WHICH WILL TAKE
INDONESIA OFF THE HOOK. END SUMMARY
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2. DURING LUNCH AT RESIDENCE JUNE 29 PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDANT ALI MURTOPO -- WHO ACCOMPANIED BY OPSUS (SPECIAL OPERATIONS) STALWARTS LIM BIAN KIE AND HARRY TJAN -- REVIEWED SITUATION SURROUNDING PROJECTED CONFERENCE OF WCC IN JAKARTA IN AUGUST 1975. ALI STATED THAT FOLLOWING DELHI MEETING TWO YEARS AGO PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD ASSURED GENERAL SIMATUPANG, INDONESIAN WCC LEADER AND REVOLUTIONARY HERO, THAT GOI WAS AGREEABLE TO COUNCIL MEETING BEING HELD IN INDONESIA (IMPLICATION WAS THAT COUNCIL, THROUGH SIMATUPANG, HAD INITIATED REQUEST). SINCE THAT TIME TO PRESENT SUHARTO HAS NOT CHANGED HIS POSITION, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS INTERNAL OPPOSITION FROM DEVOUT INDONESIAN MOSLEMS (NOTE: ALI AND SUHARTO WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH SYMPATHY IF THERE WERE).

3. HOWEVER, BEFORE AND DURING RECENT MOSLEM FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR, MORE EXTREME MOSLEM COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PRESSURING GOI TO WITHDRAW INVITATION, OR IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE TO BALANCE IT OFF BY HOSTING MOSLEM SUMMIT MEETING SOMETIME BEFORE AUGUST 1975. (IN AN ASIDE ALI SAID MOSLEM LEADERS COULD AGREE TO A SUMMIT MEETING "IN A MINUTE" SINCE THEY DID NOT REQUIRE PRIOR PLANNING SUCH AS MOST LEADERS WOULD NEED.) ADDED TO THIS PRESSURE HAS BEEN QUESTION OF INDONESIA'S STANCE RE PROBLEM OF MOSLEMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES WHERE GOI HAS GENERALLY TAKEN PART OF GOP.

4. MAKING CLEAR THAT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS SUHARTO DOES NOT WISH TO HOST A MOSLEM SUMMIT ALMOST SURE TO COME UP WITH POSITIONS WITH WHICH INDONESIA DISAGREES, AND STRESSING THAT WHILE INDONESIA IS MOSLEM IT IS NOT

ARAB, ALI SAID THAT GOI RECONSIDERING ITS INVITATION TO WORLD COUNCIL AND GIVING THOUGHT TO POSSIBILITY THAT CANADA (WHICH MENTIONED AS ALTERNATE SITE AT 1972 DELHI MEETING) COULD TAKE OVER AS HOST.

HARRY TJAN (WHO ALONG WITH LIM IS A CHINESE CATHOLIC) ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AT KUALA LUMPUR MOSLEM FORUMS CONFERENCE

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INDONESIANS WERE ACCUSED OF LETTING CHINESE CHRISTIANS RUN GOVERNMENT. WHEN QUERIED BY AMBASSADOR, ALI ADMITTED THAT GOI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE MOSLEM TERRORIST ATTEMPTS DURING A WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE ALSO A FACTOR IN EQUATION. ON OTHER HAND ALI SAID SUHARTO -- ONE HE HAS GIVEN WORD -- FINDS IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RENEGE.

5. COMMENT: GOI CLEARLY FACES DILEMMA. THERE IS A GROWING DESIRE TO GET OUT OF HOSTING THE CONFERENCE, WHICH CONFLICTS WITH IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO SUHARTO'S KEEPING HIS WORD. GOI IS CLEARLY LOOKING FOR SOME SOLUTION AT LATE JULY MEETING OF WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN BERLIN (E.G., GETTING CANADA TO HOST THE CONFERENCE) WHICH WILL GET INDONESIA OFF HOOK WITHOUT HAVING PUBLICLY TO RENEGE ON ITS AGREEMENT.
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